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OCTOBER MEETING, 1885.

The Society resumed its meetings, which had been omitted during the summer, on Thursday, the 9th instant; and in the absence of Dr. Ellis, who had recently met with a personal bereavement, Mr. DEANE, Vice-President, took the chair. He congratulated the Society that during the long vacation no name had been dropped from the Resident or the Honorary and Corresponding roll. He expressed regret at the absence of the President, and read a note which he had received from him referring to the loss of his beloved brother.

The record of the last meeting was read by the Secretary.

The gifts to the Library were reported by the Librarian; and they included additional volumes from the family of the late George Ticknor.

Mr. SALTONSTALL, in behalf of the Committee formed to procure a portrait of Mr. Winthrop, then said:—

I take great pleasure in calling the attention of the Society to the portrait of our ex-President, Mr. Winthrop, which is before them.

Your Committee corresponded at once with Mr. Huntington, the artist who had twice painted so successfully portraits of Mr. Winthrop,—that now in his dining-room, and the noble full-length portrait in the Capitol.

The artist most willingly undertook for the third time the work of painting the portrait of the eminent gentleman, and preferred to paint another original rather than to duplicate either of the others. He had, I believe, but one sitting, and produced the admirable portrait which is before you. It is a spirited and true presentment of one who is very dear to this Society, and to whom it is and always will be grateful for his long and valuable services as its President.

The Committee, if you remember, was instructed to procure a full-length portrait; but at Mr. Winthrop's earnest request it was painted in the usual size,—he being unwilling to have it in form differing from those of his father and the other

ex-Presidents. I trust the members will agree with me as to the merit of the portrait.

The Committee is under great obligation to Mr. Cobb for his zealous attention to the work of procuring it.

The portrait was received with great gratification; and Judge DEVENS expressed the opinion of all present that the Committee had discharged their duty most satisfactorily, and that the thanks of the Society should be given to them.

Mr. DEANE read the following paper, which had been written by Dr. Ellis:—

It is fitting that our Proceedings should bear record of the successful results achieved by patient research in clearing up an obscure subject which has been frequently referred to in the meetings and publications of this Society,—namely, the time and place of birth, and the lineage of the revered man known as “the first founder of Harvard College.” The President of the College was privileged to make public announcement of the facts at the Commencement this year. Members of this Society who have united with other contributors in securing the services of Mr. Henry F. Waters in historical and genealogical research in England, in matters of interest in our early New England annals and concerning our early colonists, had already felt themselves abundantly rewarded by the rich discoveries which he had previously made, as noted in our Proceedings. The method, which he was the first to adopt, of a thorough, page-by-page examination of the folios of wills, in the chaos of imperfectly indexed volumes, has been fruitful and rich in its revelations. His latest discovery may well crown his faithful and intelligently directed labors. The mystery which had heretofore enshrouded the personality of John Harvard had become baffling and provocative of the imagination. It is somewhat remarkable that our bards, who sometimes sport with history for the sake of sentimentalizing poetry, had not made him the theme of some romantic fancy. If any of us had idealized the mystery about him, taking the *ignotum pro magnifico*, we must reconcile ourselves to the revelation which has assigned to him a parentage and kinship with the sterling class of our old English stock, the guilds and mechanics and tradespeople, whose rank was lowly, and whose frugal means were the savings of honest, useful toil.

Mr. Waters has transcribed for us the wills of John Harvard's father and mother, of two step-fathers, of brother, uncle, aunt, and father-in-law. Harvard was baptized — a ceremony soon following birth — in London, on Nov. 29, 1607, and so was in his thirty-first year when he died here. His property, the half of which he left to the College, had come to him from the decease of these relatives, including the inheritance of his mother from her second and third husbands, by whom she had no children.

There yet remains as desirable, what Mr. Waters' further researches may disclose, the evidence and documents relating to the settlement of Harvard's estate in England, and to the transfer of property for his legacy to the College.

In immediate connection with this subject, recognition should also appear in our Proceedings of the commemoration, on June 18 and 19, 1884, of the three hundredth anniversary of the founding of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, England. That was Harvard's Alma Mater; his degree of Master of Arts dates in the first half-century of the existence of the College. A volume containing the exercises on that observance has been presented to this Society by the Master and Fellows. The signal, if not the supreme, interest assigned to the founder and to the historic importance of our College in the exercises, the speeches, and honors of that occasion may be inferred from the remark in a reference to them, in the "Saturday Review" of June 28: "We could have wished to have heard a little more about Emmanuel and a little less about Harvard; for we were assembled to celebrate the tercentenary of the mother, not that of the child." Yet, if it may not seem ungracious, we would add that there are two points of interest which do not appear to have been noticed in the relations in the olden time between the old and the new Cambridge. Emmanuel was founded by Sir Walter Mildmay in 1584. There were very close relations of intimacy, and at least two by marriage, between the families of Mildmay and Winthrop. Sir Walter Mildmay, founder of Emmanuel, was the uncle of Sir Thomas Mildmay who married Alice the sister of our Governor's father. It was from Alice, Lady Mildmay, the aunt of our Governor, that he received the "stone pot, tipped and covered with a silver lid," a curious relic now in the Cabinet of the Antiquarian Society in

Worcester. Another of the strong ties between the two Cambridges is the "Cambridge Agreement," on Aug. 26, 1629, which assured the coming hither of the Massachusetts Company. It is not known exactly where in Cambridge the twelve leading and responsible men met and signed that Agreement. No other place there would have been more fitting or likely than some hall or chamber of Emmanuel, the Puritan college. One may refer in this connection to the speech of our ex-President at the banquet in St. Peter's College, when the degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred upon him in 1874.¹

In answer to an invitation from the Master and Fellows of Emmanuel, our own College was represented at the commemoration by our associate, Professor Charles Eliot Norton. Another of our associates, His Excellency James Russell Lowell, American Minister near the Court of St. James, held a place of honor at the exercises, in speech and banquet. He modestly left to the official delegate a grateful service, most felicitously rendered, of rehearsing the memories and relations of the ancient days. It may be well to note an error of oversight in the Memorial Volume (page 66). From the fact that Mr. Joseph H. Choate presided at our Commencement dinner at which the announcement of the intended gift of a statue of Harvard was made, the gift is said to be from him instead of from its real donor, Samuel J. Bridge. Professor Norton in his speech, so rich and eloquent in its matter and spirit, is reported as assigning to Governor Winthrop thirty years' residence in New England, instead of nineteen.

The two following letters from Mr. James Eddy Mauran, of Newport, Rhode Island, were sent by the President:—

BOSTON April 9: 1770

Mess^{rs} SAM^l & W^m VERNON.

GENTLEMEN — I Rec^d y^e money you sent & that for the order on M^r Mumford & gave him a receipt allso wrote by him & sent it to his Lodging Last week that it was the Ballance of your acct — as to Haddock their is none & Jamaica Fish I Can now get at 5-7-6 & not under it Very scarce at this Season of y^e year

I am gentlemen yours [to] Serve

W^m WHITWE[LL]

¹ See his "Addresses and Speeches," vol. iii. p. 319.

We hear the vessell that is Come in to Newport is full of goods if so whats become of your signing & Sons of Liberty &c W^m W

As to the money from the Custom house you mention I dont understand we know not any thing about it here — the most we know is that they Procured an Evedenc to sware he heard some body that Fatal Night say we hope to have the sharing of the money in their but none beleives it Even themselves I think.

[Indorsed "W^m Whitwell Apr^l 9th 1770."]

[Addressed "To Mes^{rs} Samuel & William Vernon
Merchants
New Port."]

Mess^{rs} SAM^L & W^M VERNON

Boston April 10: 1770

GENTLEMEN — Yestrday I wrote you N Port and one principul reason of writing was to Inform you I sent your Letter to London by Cap^t Gardner who was hired by the Town to Carry our Packett he saild y^e first Instant. I find we had Need Enough to send as some person was wicked Enough to write to York & get publish^d their a most vile wicked & false acct of the affair of y^e 5th of March which is Direct the reverse we have abundant Evidence of a preconcerted Scheem of y^e Soldireys Intention of Somthing Very Bad as they had Previously Cautiond some of their acquaintance not to be out at such a Time others Telling of mere Blood would be spilt in Boston before the Next week was out than ever was Known before &c all which is Printed in a pamphlet and sent home with all the Evedence but they are not suffered to come out here yet as the persons have not had their Tryal and its thot it might be a means of Predjuicing the minds of Persons &c in Due time I hope you^l see & to your Surprize their abominations

I am Gentlemen Yours to Serve

W^M WHITWELL.

Mr. A. A. LAWRENCE presented to the Library Mr. F. B. Sanborn's "Life of John Brown," accompanied by a letter commenting upon certain statements in it.

Dr. CLARKE remarked that John Brown did what he thought to be his duty, although his views of duty were different from ours.

The Secretary announced from Dr. Peabody a memoir of the late Rear-Admiral George H. Preble, which he had been requested to write.

Judge CHAMBERLAIN, being called upon, spoke as follows:

There is an interesting episode in the history of the Old Province House which has escaped the notice of local antiqua-

rians. I refer to its occupation by the Earl of Bellomont, when governor, for fourteen months from the latter part of May, 1699. The accepted opinion has been that in 1716 Colonel Samuel Shute "probably became the first gubernatorial occupant of the Mansion House;"¹ but the fact is otherwise, as will duly appear after a brief recital of the history of the Old Mansion of Peter Sergeant, for which I am mainly indebted to Dr. Shurtleff. Its site was on the westerly side of Washington Street, the third lot southerly from School Street; and according to the "Book of Possessions," Thomas Millard was its first owner. From him the title passed to Colonel Samuel Shrimpton, who sold it in 1676 to Peter Sergeant, for £350. The lot had a frontage of eighty-six feet on the street, and extended westerly two hundred and sixty-six feet, its western boundary being seventy-seven feet.

Peter Sergeant, who came over in 1667, was a London merchant of wealth, apart from what he acquired by three marriages, and was honorably distinguished in colonial history. In 1679 he built a Mansion House, afterwards better known — from 1716, when it was purchased by the province — as the Province House, the residence of the royal governors from Colonel Shute to General Gage. Governor Shute reached Boston, Oct. 4, 1716, and for a time was the guest of Paul Dudley. When he went to the Province House, does not appear. It was worthy of such distinction; for undoubtedly it was the most eligible residence in Boston. Built of brick, three stories high, situated in spacious grounds ornamented with magnificent trees, it merited the decorative handiwork of Deacon Shem Drown which was placed on its cupola, — the identical Indian chief, with his drawn bow and arrow, which was presented to the Historical Society by Mrs. Emily W. Appleton, and its gift announced with interesting and valuable remarks from Dr. George E. Ellis.²

In this mansion Sergeant resided for twenty years before it acquired any distinction other than that which attached to it as the most sumptuous in the colony, owned and occupied by a gentleman renowned for his hospitality and honored by the consideration of his fellow-citizens. He lived in the disturbed

¹ Shurtleff's Topographical and Historical Description of Boston, p. 593.

² Mass. Hist. Soc. Proc. vol. xv. p. 178.

times which witnessed the overthrow of the first charter, the usurpation of Andros, whom he strenuously opposed, and the grant of the new charter, with all the heart-burnings, jealousies, and aspirations which these events occasioned. Sergeant was one of the councillors named in the charter. Of his domestic life we know but little. Though thrice married, his home was without children of his own, — a circumstance which may have had something to do with the opening of his mansion to the Earl of Bellomont, first as his guest, and later as a tenant.

By the death of Governor Phipps, in London, Feb. 18, 1695, whither he had been summoned to give an account of his administration, which had caused some dissatisfaction, the way was prepared for rumors respecting his successor. Joseph Dudley, a native of the colony, was ambitious to succeed Phipps; but notwithstanding the influence of Lord Cutts in his favor, Dudley's action in the condemnation of Leisler worked to his prejudice, and the report of the appointment of the Earl of Bellomont instead was not slow in reaching the province.¹ Sewall records, 1695, Aug. 25: —

“The Flag is out almost all day at the Castle, for Pincarton comes in in the even, brings word that the Lord Bellamont is coming over our Governour in the Unity Frigat.”²

Sept. 20. “The Lord Bellamont is made our Governour. Hardly will come before the Spring.”³

But his lordship did not come even then. His affairs detained him in England until the fall of 1697,⁴ when he embarked for his government in one of his Majesty's ships, which was blown off the coast, and he was obliged to winter in Barbadoes. The next spring, Sewall records: —

“Third-day. Apr. 12. 1698. By a sloop from thence we hear that the governour arrived at Sandy-Hook Apr. 1. and was received magnificently at New-york Ap. 2. Capt. N. Williams told me first of it in the Meeting-House, after Catechising.”⁵

¹ Hutchinson's Hist. Mass. vol. ii. p. 86.

² Diary, vol. i. p. 411.

³ *Ibid.* p. 413.

⁴ Drake, misreading Hutchinson (vol. ii. p. 108), says “1698.” History of Boston, p. 517.

⁵ Diary, vol. i. p. 476.

For a year the Governor was detained in New York, which with Massachusetts and New Hampshire fell under his government; but he was not without intelligence from Massachusetts during that time.

"Immediately upon advice of his lordship's arrival [in New York], a committee was sent with congratulations from the Massachusetts; and during his residence at New York he was frequently consulted, and all matters of importance were communicated to him."¹

Nor were the good people of Massachusetts indifferent to the Governor's welfare while his coming was delayed. Sewall records, April 16: —

"His Excellencies Letter to the Lt. Governour and council is read, dated Ap. 4. N. York. Thanks for Praying for Him, which saw by the order for the Fast; doubts not but fa^rd the better. Shall write more by the next, was now in pain by the Gout."²

A year passed, and the hopes of the people were changed to the enjoyment of the reality of his lordship's presence.

1699, Apr. 13. "Orders are issued to Lt. Col. Hutchinson to prepare for my Lords coming as to the Regiment."³

With diarian fatality, Sewall is reticent where we would have him garrulous. He puts us off with the following meagre hints of the pageantry and feasting which accompanied the Governor's entry to the capital of the province, and refers us to his "Journal of meeting the Gov^r June 7th," which does not appear.

1699, May. "Gov^r dines at Roxbury, four coaches. Capt. Byfield give the Committee a Treat."

June 5. "Mr. Willard preaches an excellent Election Sermon. Gov^r dines at Monks. Major Walley chosen Capt., Capt. Byfield Lieut. Tho. Hutchinson Ens. Gov^r Bellomont [Sewall has now learned the true spelling of the Governor's name] delivers the Badges, saying that He a^proved of the choice."⁴

But after these ebullitions of provincial joy, which at last doubtless fatigued even a politician as desirous of making a favorable impression as the Earl of Bellomont is said to have been, his lordship must have been grateful for the sight of a

¹ Hutchinson's Hist. Mass. vol. ii. p. 108.

³ *Ibid.* p. 495.

² Diary, vol. i. p. 477.

⁴ *Ibid.* p. 497.

quiet couch. He found one in the mansion of Peter Sergeant, who, as a man of wealth and social distinction, could hardly have resisted the claims of his Excellency to the hospitality of his mansion; and he was nothing loath, we may presume, to entertain the noble representative of royalty under his roof. Sewall says:—

“Midsummer Day, 1699. Mr Secretary, Capt. Belchar, Capt. Mason and S, are invited, and dine with my Lord and Lady, at Mr Sergeant’s.”¹

Sewall seems to have made a favorable impression upon the new-comers.

“Wednesday; July, 19 The Lady Bellomont and Madam Nanfan visit us.”²

Lord Bellomont married Catharine Nanfan, of Bridgemorton, in the county of Worcester, and had two sons, successively Earls of Bellomont. John Nanfan, a kinsman of the Earl of Bellomont, came over with the Earl, as lieutenant-governor of New York; and Madam Nanfan, presumably his wife, accompanied the Earl and his lady from New York.

The Governor used the Sergeant Mansion not only for social purposes, but also for official occasions.

“July 20. Deputies are sent for to Mr. Sergeant’s, and in his best Chamber, the Governour declares his Prorogation of the Court.”³

“Third-day, July 25 1699. My Lord Bellomont deliver’d me my Comission for Judge of the Superiour Court. And the Chief Justice, Mr Stoughton, Mr Cooke and myself were sworn in Mr Sergeants best chamber before the Governour & Council.”⁴

Sewall at this time, as ever after his marriage, undoubtedly lived on the easterly side of Washington Street, between Summer and Bedford Streets, and not in the house on Cotton Hill, as has been sometimes supposed. This Cotton Hill estate was occupied by Captain Tuthill. On the same day that Sewall received his commission as Judge, July 25, he made the following entry:—

“Between 6 and 7, I have my Lady up upon Cotton Hill, and shew her the Town; Madam Sergeant, Nanfan, Newton there; and Maj’

¹ Diary, vol. i. p. 498.

² *Ibid.* p. 499.

³ *Ibid.* p. 500.

⁴ *Ibid.* p. 500.

Genl and Mr Sergeant. Mrs. Tuthills Daughters invited my Lady as came down and gave a glass of good Wine. As came down again through the Gate I asked my Lady's Leave that now I might call it Bellomont Gate. My Lady laugh'd and said, What a Complement he puts on me! With pleasancy."¹

The scene Lady Bellomont looked upon from Cotton Hill no longer exists in its original beauty, as when the rivers, unvexed by bridges, ran to the ocean, and the adjacent heights and headlands, with the lenticular hills beyond, and the hundred islands in the bay, were untouched by despoiling hands, and around all was the encircling sea. Sewall's Diary contains these last memoranda:—

"Seventh-day, Nov^r 4. This day the Gov^r treats the Council and sundry other Gentlemen in Mr Sergeants best chamber."²

1700, July 17. "The L^d Bellomont our Gov^r sets sail for New york."³

1707, March 15. "The Town is filled with the News of my Ld Bellomont's death, last Wednesday, was señight."⁴

From these and other entries it is evident that Lord Bellomont was popular with the Massachusetts people while living, and that he was regretted when dead. Peter Sergeant was not the only one who, to his own inconvenience, was willing to accommodate his lordship. Sewall himself, who owned a coach-house and stable on the Pyncheon lot, where the Horticultural Hall now stands, and not far from the Sergeant Mansion, gave them up to the Governor. Whether the gate named Bellomont in compliance with Sewall's gallant request long bore that distinction, does not appear; but he records, as late as Dec. 18, 1706, that—

"Bastian Lops the Elm by my Lord's stable; cuts off a cord of good wood. Mr. Sergeant came up Rawson's lane as we were doing it."⁵

But the whole of Peter Sergeant's complacency towards the Governor has not been told; for his lordship, finding "Mr. Sergeants best chamber" quite to his mind, desired the whole

¹ Diary, vol. i. p. 500.

² *Ibid.* p. 504.

³ *Ibid.* vol. ii. p. 20.

⁴ *Ibid.* p. 33.

⁵ *Ibid.* p. 174.

estate. This Sergeant not only accorded to him ; but that he might do so, hired and moved into a house owned by William Gibbins, on the other side of Washington Street. When Lord Bellomont went to New York, and death had precluded his return to Boston, Sergeant gave up the Gibbins house, and resumed his own ; but it is uncertain whether Madam Sergeant returned to the mansion, or was carried to her last resting-place from the Gibbins house. She died Nov. 10, 1700.

Apparently Earl Bellomont arranged with Sergeant and Sewall for their respective estates with the expectation of paying the rents out of his own pocket, as appears from the following : —

“1699 Aug. 28. Earl Bellomont writes to the Lords of Trade that he paid £100 a year for a house in Boston, besides a charge for a stable.”¹

But it is now certain that the province not only paid these rents, but also Sergeant's expenses for entertaining the Governor in his house before arrangements were made by which he became sole occupant. His lordship, as is seen above, sailed for New York July 17, 1700. About three weeks later, August 5, Sewall wrote to the Earl, then at Albany, as follows : —

“I congratulate your Excellency, and my Ladys safe arrival at New York, and condole your repeated affliction by the Gout. . . . The Committee appointed by the Gen^l Court, have agreed to the proposals made by Mr. Sergeant and myself. They allow me Fifteen pounds p^añum for the Stable, from the first of Octob^r till May next ; And the Province is to have what Benefit can reasonably be made of it during your Lordships absence.”²

Though this agreement with the General Court is for prospective rent, it will appear in the sequel that the province paid for the whole time during which the Mansion House of Mr. Sergeant and Sewall's coach-house and stable were used by the Governor.

The following records require little or no comment : —

¹ N. E. Hist. and Gen. Reg. vol. vi. p. 83.

² Sewall's Letters, vol. i. p. 240.

*General Court Records.*¹[March 23, ¹⁶⁹⁹/₁₇₀₀.]

A Resolve of the House of Representatives in the Words following was Sent up, read, and Concurred with Vizt,

Resolved

That the whole Charge arising for House Rent for the Accomodation of His Ex^{ty} for this Year, be paid out of the Treasury of this Province at the Expiration of the Year

His Ex^{ty} house rent to be paid out of the Treasury.

Consented to

BELLOMONT

The foregoing resolve, as will be noticed, is not a legislative act consented to by the Governor after it had passed both bodies, but a resolve of the Council, authenticated and approved by the Earl of Bellomont, and sent up to the House of Representatives for concurrent action; and it is an illustration of what Hutchinson says of him:² "There was something singular and unparliamentary in his [Bellomont's] form of proceeding in the Council; for he considered himself as at the head of the board in their legislative as well as executive capacity."

Council Records.

Whereas the Committee appointed by the Great & General Court or Assembly at their session begun & held at Boston the 20th day of May last, to treat with Peter Sergeant Esq^r for the hire of his house wherein his Excell^{cy} the Earl of Bellomont lately dwelt, have reported their agreement That the s^d M^r Sergeant be allowed & paid after the rate of one hundred pounds p annum for fourteen months and a halfe from his Lordp^s entring thereon.

Hire for the Earl of Bellomont's house.

Advised and consented That his honour the Lieut Governour issue forth his Warrant unto M^r Treasurer to pay unto the said Peter Sergeant Esq^r Rent for his s^d house for the space of fourteen months and a halfe, after the rate of one hundred pounds p annum amounting to the sum of one hundred and twenty pounds, sixteen shillings and eight pence.³

Order for the paying it.

Whereas the Committee appointed by the Great & General Court or Assembly at their Session begun and held at Boston the 29th day of May last, to treat with Samuel Sewall

Sewall's acct for the Earl of Bellomont's use of his stable &c

¹ Gen. Court Rec. vol. vii. p. 64.

² Hutchinson's Hist. vol. ii. p. 113.

³ Council Rec. vol. iii. p. 146.

Esq^t for the hire of his Stable and Coach House for the use of his Excellency Richard Earl of Bellomont, have reported their agreement that the s^d Mr. Sewall be paid the sum of Fifteen pounds for one yeares Rent of the s^d Stable and Coach house to the 1st of October currant.

Order to pay
him.

Advised and consented That his Honour the Lieut^t Governour issue forth his Warrant to M^r Treasurer, to pay unto the said Samuel Sewall Esq^t the afores^d Rent or sum of Fifteen pounds.¹

[30 May 1701.]

Advised and consented. That there be paid unto Peter Sergeant Esq^t the sum of Twenty pounds for entertainment of his Excell^{ty} the Earl of Bellomont & his Family, at his first coming into this Government before his Excell^{cies} keeping house.

And that his honour the Lieut^t Gov^r issue forth his Warrant unto M^r Treasurer for payment of the same accordingly

Advised and Consented that there be paid unto Samuel Sewall Esq^{re} the sum of seven pounds, ten shillings for the last halfe yeares rent of Stables for his Excellency Earl of Bellomonts horses.

And that his honour the Lieut^t Gov^r issue forth his Warrant unto M^r Treasurer for payment of the same accordingly.²

[5 Nov. 1701.]

Whereas the Committee appointed by the General-Assembly at their Session begun and held the 29th day of May 1700 to treat with Peter Sergeant Esq^{re} about the hire of his house in Boston wherein the Earl of Bellomont lately dwelt, have reported, that he be allowed and paid after the rate of one hundred pounds p^a annum for fourteen months & a halfe from his Lord^{sh} entring thereon, and after the same rate till the Sessions of the General Court in May Anno 1701. the Windows in s^d house to be mended at the Province charge. But in case his Lord^{sh} should not afterwards live in s^d house, then s^d Sergeant to be allowed nothing more than for the fourteen Months and a halfe past, but only the dead rent of the house he hired of William Gibbins.

And whereas payment having been already ordered for the fourteen months and a halfe rent aforesaid, there remains yet to be paid the dead rent of the house hired of William Gibbins for the space of nine months, ending on the seven-

¹ Council Rec. vol. iii. p. 160.

² *Ibid.* vol. iii. p. 208.

teenth day of April last past, at the rate of Twenty five pounds p annum, and Twenty eight shillings and five pence for mending of the Windows of s^d Sergeants House.

Ordered, That a warrant be made out and issued unto the Treasurer to pay unto the s^d Peter Sergeant Esq^{re} the sum of Twenty pounds, three shillings, in full for repairing the Windows of his own house, and the hire of the afores^d House rented of William Gibbins.

And, a Warrant for payment of the s^d sum accordingly, being drawn up was signed by fourteen of the Members of Council present at the Board.

After remarks by Messrs. G. S. HALE and PAIGE, the meeting was dissolved.

MEMOIR
OF
REAR-ADMIRAL GEORGE HENRY PREBLE.

BY ANDREW P. PEABODY.

THE first American ancestor of the Preble family was Abraham Preble, from the county of Kent, who settled in Scituate, Massachusetts, in 1636. Among the distinguished members of the family we may name Commodore Edward Preble, William Pitt Preble, United States Minister to Holland and Justice of the Supreme Court of Maine, and Brigadier-General Preble, the grandfather of our late associate.

George Henry Preble, son of Enoch and Sally (Cross) Preble, was born in Portland, Maine, Feb. 25, 1816. Educated in the public schools of his native town, at the age of fourteen he became clerk in a bookstore, and was so employed in 1835, when he received an appointment as a Midshipman in the navy. On examination he was made a Passed Midshipman in 1841; and in 1846, without further promotion, as acting Master of the "Petrel," he rendered important service in the Mexican War. His commission as Lieutenant was received in 1848; he was made a Commander in 1862, and Captain in 1867. In 1853, under Commodore Perry, he was put in command of a steamer chartered for the protection of American commerce against Chinese pirates; and in this service he manifested such signal promptness and efficiency as to receive not only emphatic praise from his commanding officer, but also the special thanks of Rear-Admiral Stirling of the British Navy. In 1862, while still a Lieutenant, he commanded the "Katahdin," under Farragut, and took part in all the principal operations on the Mississippi.

Shortly after he received his commission as Commander, occurred an event, unavoidable but disastrous, and threatening

an abrupt close to his honorable career. In September, 1862, while he was in command of the "Oneida," on the blockade of the Mobile harbor, the rebel steamer "Oviato" broke the blockade. The "Oneida's" steam-apparatus was undergoing readjustment, and could not be put in motion till the rebel vessel was beyond her reach. On the intelligence of this failure Commander Preble was summarily dismissed from the service, without the opportunity of making his statement of the affair, and not without reason for suspicion that some hostile outside influence of which he was the innocent and unconscious victim had been exerted with the functionaries of the Navy Department. This arbitrary action of the Department was warmly resented by his brother-officers and by large numbers of citizens conversant with public affairs; and the numerous testimonials to his long-trying and universally recognized ability and courage as an officer, together with fully certified statements of the circumstances which rendered the "Oneida" unserviceable in the stress of need, led to his restoration to his rank and position by the President in February, 1863. Seldom can so many and so hearty tributes have been paid to the sterling merit, personal and official, of any man, as were poured in upon him, in great part unsought, during the few months of his suspension; while he never for a moment doubted that he would be exonerated from all blame when the facts of the case could be clearly known.

In June, 1863, Commander Preble took command of the "St. Louis," and remained in active duty till the close of the war. In 1871 he received his commission as Commodore, and was Commandant of the Philadelphia Navy Yard from 1873 to 1875 (inclusive). He was commissioned as Rear-Admiral in 1876. His last sea-service was the command of the South Pacific squadron. In 1878 he was placed on the retired list.

He then established himself at Brookline, Massachusetts, and devoted the residue of his life to historical and literary pursuits. Though apparently in vigorous health, he had been made aware of the probable existence of organic disease of the heart, which, without a moment's premonition, terminated his life on the 1st of March, 1885.

Admiral Preble had the unqualified respect and esteem of all who knew him. To the virtues that adorn his profession

he added those which made him, in all the relations of home and of private life, honored and beloved. In manners and in character he realized the ideal of that highest style of man, the Christian gentleman. He was fervently patriotic; and the narrative of his career in the navy would be a singularly full record of large and varied public service, much of it requiring not only the courage and skill of an accomplished seaman and commander, but equally the finer culture of one widely conversant with books and with men. In his latter years of retirement his house, with its large and well-selected library, and its generous and genial hospitality, was a favorite resort, both of those who had served with and under him, and of those in sympathy with the studies and researches which gave employment to his well-earned leisure. None can have been associated with him, or can have enjoyed his intimacy, without regretting his departure, and holding him in reverent and enduring memory.

Admiral Preble, in 1868, published a very elaborate account of the "First Three Generations of the Preble Family." He was for many years a frequent contributor to the "New England Historical Register," to the "United Service," and to several newspapers in Portland and in Boston. For the "United Service" he prepared a valuable series of articles on the "Ships and Shipping of the World, from the Ark to the Great Eastern." In 1872 he published his work on the "Origin and Progress of the Flag of the United States of America," of which what purported to be a second edition, but was in great part a new work, appeared in 1880, under the title of "History of the Flag of the United States of America, and of the Naval and Yacht Club Signals, Seals and Arms, and Principal National Songs of the United States." In 1883 he published a "Chronological History of the Origin and Development of Steam Navigation." The materials for this last work and for the second edition of the preceding had been accumulated during his many years of active service, while in their present form they represent also the strenuous industry of his retirement. They are thorough and accurate, and are possessed of an historical value which can only grow with the lapse of years.

Admiral Preble was a member of the New England Historic Genealogical Society; of the American Antiquarian Society; and

of the Historical Societies of Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, New York, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.

Admiral Preble was married, in 1845, to Susan Zebiah, daughter of John and Thankful (Harris) Cox, of Portland, who died in 1875. Of four children of this marriage, two — Susie Zebiah and George Henry Rittenhouse Preble — survive.